

but that it is always wise, just and prudent is another question.

While the opportunities for men to pursue female occupations are comparatively few and limited, the opportunities for females to pursue those of the men are many and varied.

A woman can generally do her own peculiar work, and a man's work too, while few men can pretend to follow the peculiarly feminine lines of labor. Most men do not make successful house maids, milliners, dressmakers, nurses, sewers, knitters, fancy workers and the thousand and one callings in the domestic arts. Most men would not want to follow such occupations if they could. A woman can always find employment if she is respectable and at all handy or clever.

Even if not particularly bright or clever she can fill domestic situations, of which there are always opportunities in abundance at good living wages. A woman may support herself with her needle, or in many of the fine and useful feminine arts, where a man would be left to starve.

The great trouble just now is the multitude of young women, and some of uncertain age are wont to fill office clerkships, mingling with men, and doing men's work, because they rather like it, and their love of dress prompts them to thus earn money rather than work at home, or in the more domestic and womanly lines where they are so badly needed. Often in pursuing such male occupations, they have to almost unsex themselves, mingling with rough men, who swear, talk vile, and use the "vile weed," and other abominations, which woman, lovely, sensitive woman, so objects to!

Their finer, womanly natures, are often sadly perverted, and the home circle of woman's tender, pure, refining, ennobling influence, is thus robbed of its charm, and its usefulness. There are all too many women thus growing into public life, and usurping male employments, that are more urgently wanted in the charmed circle of their own sex, and in the home circle where woman's sphere is most positively found, and most seriously neglected.

It is all very well to cry "women's rights;" "liberty and equality;" it is all very fine for woman to independently earn her own living by honest industry; it is all very well for her to even excel in doing man's work, but if she continues to take away his labor and by so doing desert her own, that cries so loudly for her recognition, she may have to support herself to the bitter end, when her brother like Othello, finds his occupation gone. These are a few hints on the off side of woman's rights.

It is a curious fact that, notwithstand-

ing our boasted civilization, at the first opportunity the animal nature will peep out. This fact was amply exemplified this week, when a trial, the details of which are possibly the most disgusting ever heard in a British Columbia Court of Justice, was in progress. The Court room was crowded from end to end, and every ear was strained so as not to miss a word of the loathsome details. At one time, the Judge (Mr. Justice Crease) in fact, had occasion to rebuke a young gentleman for ill-timed levity in smiling at a portion of the complainant's testimony. Verily, our civilization is but a veneer. I think, in future, that it might be in the interests of public morals if on such occasions as this, the door of the Court room should be shut. I would be the last one to condemn public trials and encourage interference with the liberty of the press. These latter are two of the strongest of the bulwarks of British liberty.

A custom prevails in this city which will cause considerable loss at no distant day. I refer to grounding electric wires on gas and water pipes. President Skilton, of the National Board of Fire Underwriters demonstrates that there has been plenty of evidence during the past three months showing that fires caused by electricity are growing alarmingly frequent. Inspections show that but few buildings in any community are safely wired, and that perfect insulation is but rarely secured. He says the companies, for their own salvation, must adopt at the earliest possible moment, plans and methods that will compel the assured to substitute the most modern wiring and safeguards or be relieved of fire insurance protection. The electric-wire danger, President Skilton says, threatens the very life of fire insurance companies. In Victoria numerous buildings have been wired by irresponsible men and no check exists in the shape of a by-law.

"It is a strange thing," whispered a whimsical individual last night, after making sure no one else was looking, "that a married person always declines to inform an unmarried friend just how the proposal tableau was arranged. Every time I have asked a married woman how her husband asked her to be his, she has always blushed and given an evasive answer. 'It's been so long I have forgotten,' she sometimes answers unthinkingly. If she had realized that she had referred to her age she would have expired.' Another woman will answer: 'Why, John just asked me and I said yes.' On account of these different answers I have begun to think that, as comparisons cannot be made, an artis-

tic proposal will never be had in the world. I have also begun to think that it is that these evasive replies are inevitable."

The opinions of great men on marriage and matrimonial topics are always interesting, if not invariably instructive.

Thackeray, who detested "wasp waisted women," once told a young relative, who was much in love, to take his betrothed to a physician before buying the engagement ring.

"What for?" his companion inquired in considerable astonishment.

"To see whether that wasp waist is an inheritance or a consequence," he replied.

"Consequence!" exclaimed the young man; "what do you mean?"

"Corsets," said Thackeray, laconically.

"Miss——has the most beautiful figure in England," said the infatuated lover.

"She is deformed," Thackeray, responded. "If it is a natural deformity she may be a moderately healthy woman. Even humpbacks are not always delicate, you know. Mind, I say moderately healthy. But if that girl's figure is the result of corsets you might better hang yourself rather than risk the evils that will inevitably follow.

Abraham Lincoln once remarked that every man about to marry should start over a doctor with a club and make him tell the truth with reference to the chosen partner for life, if there was any other way of getting it out of him. Alas that the parents who would allow a girl to marry a man without knowing, nearly as could be known, his physical as well as his moral condition, deserve to be scalped.

"The whole marrying business is wrong," said Mr. Lincoln. "Fashionable girls have too often foolish mothers, who care for nothing but to sell their flesh and blood to the highest bidder."

PERE GRINATOR.

Marriage is the poorest possible trade for making a living.

Young Housekeeper—We cannot afford fish at your prices. They cost too much.

Fishman—I have several dozen oysters, ma'am, left over from April, marked down fifty per cent.

Young Housekeeper—Oh, good. Sell them up. John is so fond of oysters.

Prof. Ferner, of the forestry division of the United States Bureau of Agriculture, in an address to the society recently assembled that within 24 years Canada and the United States would be obliged to restore their forests by planting at great cost, destructive were the present methods of lumbering.